

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the February 25, 2010 Office Action (the "Office Action"). Examination and reconsideration of claims 1 and 6-11 is respectfully requested.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 3, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,059,645 (issued to Kameda et al.).

Claim 11 was rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kameda et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,037 (issued to Asada et al) and 6,606,540 (issued to Gross).

Claims 5-10 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form

Amendments to the Claims

The claims have been amended. Applicant submits that support for these amendments can be found in the disclosure as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Objection to Claims 5-10 as Being Dependent on a Rejected Base Claim

Claims 5-10 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but the Office Action indicates they would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. (Office Action, P. 4, ¶6).

As suggested by the Office Action, Applicant amends claim 1 to rewrite claim 5 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Original claims 3, 4, and 5 are being cancelled and Claim 1 now incorporates all of the limitations of original claims 3, 4, and 5. Claims 6, 9, and 11 are currently amended to depend from Claim 1. Claim 7 depends from claim 6, Claim 8 depends from claim 7, and Claim 10 depends from claim 9.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant believes that claims 1 and 6-11 are allowable. If the Examiner believes that a telephone call will be helpful to further address any issues, please call the practitioner at the telephone number below.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due at this time. If there are any other fees due in relation to submittal of this communication, please charge to deposit account No. 02-2051, docket No. 30761-4.

Respectfully submitted,

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